

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 184

BY SENATORS PERRY, BISHOP, FANNIN AND TARVER

A RESOLUTION

To urge and request that all state professional and occupational licensing boards review and implement existing Louisiana law as it relates to the issuance of occupational or professional licenses to military families in the state.

WHEREAS, military spending in Louisiana accounts for a total annual economic impact of \$7.7 billion that supports over 77,000 employees; and

WHEREAS, focusing on the mission is always the priority of our military service members, and one of the factors that military families cite most frequently as a drawback to military service is the ability of spouses to obtain jobs and sustain careers; and

WHEREAS, our military families relocate frequently and facilitating the ability of military spouses to continue their work in a new place of residence without delay or additional expense is important to the state's efforts to grow and maintain its military communities; and

WHEREAS, spouses in professionally licensed fields such as medical, legal, engineering, education, accounting, or the cosmetic arts face challenges due to delays or cost of transferring licenses to a new state or jurisdiction, and eliminating or mitigating these barriers will improve quality of life for our military families and ease the stress of transferring duty stations with consideration for long-term career implications; and

WHEREAS, R.S. 37:3651(C) requires a professional or occupational licensing board to "issue a license, certification, or registration to a military spouse to allow a military spouse to lawfully practice" his or her occupation in Louisiana if the military spouse meets certain criteria; and

WHEREAS, R.S. 37:3651 also provides that when a military spouse is licensed in another state and that state's licensure standards are "substantially equivalent" to Louisiana standards, professional and occupational licensing boards are required to issue a temporary practice permit to the military spouse while he or she is satisfying any remaining requirements of Louisiana law; and

WHEREAS, Governor John Bel Edwards issued a letter on January 4, 2018, to over fifty of the state's professional licensing boards urging them to review and implement these existing provisions of Louisiana law as they relate to military spouses seeking a professional license in Louisiana upon relocation.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby urge and request that all Louisiana state professional or occupational licensing boards review and implement these existing provisions of R.S. 37:3651 and issue a license, certification, or registration to a military-trained applicant or military spouse to allow the applicant to lawfully practice the applicant's occupation in this state.

PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE